CLAIMS

1. A method of compiling an on-circuit monitor profile used to characterize the performance of a processing circuit, the method comprising the steps of:

storing a set of allowable associations between a plurality of monitors and a plurality of events;

presenting the set of allowable associations to a user;

accepting a user selected set of monitor and event associations, wherein the user selected set of monitor and event associations is a subset of the set of allowable associations; and

preparing a monitor profile based on the user selected set of monitor and event associations, wherein the monitor profile is to be used to configure on-circuit monitors.

2. A method according to claim 1, wherein the step of presenting the set of allowable associations comprises the step of presenting a graphical interface to the user.

3. A method according to claim 1, wherein the accepting step comprises the step of accepting one or more inputs from the user through a graphical interface, wherein each accepted input selects a valid monitor-event combination.

4. A method according to claim 1, wherein one or more of the monitors within the plurality of monitors is able to monitor only a subset of the plurality of events.

5. A method of compiling an on-circuit monitor profile used to characterize the performance of a processing circuit, the method comprising the steps of:

storing a set of allowable associations between a plurality of monitors and a plurality of events;

accepting a user selected set of monitor and event associations;

verifying that the selected set of monitor and event associations is a subset of the list of allowable associations;

notifying the user if one or more monitor and event associations within the selected set of monitor and event associations is not valid; and

preparing, if the selected set of monitor and event associations is valid, a monitor profile based on the user selected set of monitor and event associations, wherein the monitor profile is to be used to configure on-circuit monitors.

6. A system for compiling an on-circuit monitor profile used to characterize the performance of a processing circuit, the system comprising:

a monitor configuration file for storing a set of allowable associations of a plurality of monitors and a plurality of events;

a display, communicatively coupled to the monitor configuration file, for displaying the set of allowable associations to a user;

a user input for accepting a selected set of monitor and event associations from a user, wherein the selected set of monitor and event associations is a subset of the set of allowable associations;

a monitor profile output, communicatively coupled to the user input,

wherein the monitor profile output is to be used to configure on-circuit monitors; and

a monitor configuration generator, communicatively coupled to the monitor configuration file, the user input, the display and the monitor profile output, for preparing the data in the monitor configuration file for display on the display and preparing the selected set of monitor and event associations for the monitor profile output.

7. A system according to claim 6, wherein the display comprises a graphical user interface.

8. A system according to claim 6, wherein the user input accepts inputs in conjunction with a graphical interface.

9. A system according to claim 6, wherein at least one of the monitors within the plurality of monitors is able to monitor only a subset of the plurality of events.

10. A system for compiling an on-circuit monitor profile used to characterize the performance of a processing circuit, the system comprising:

a monitor configuration file for storing a set of allowable associations of a plurality of monitors and a plurality of events;

a user input for accepting a selected set of monitor and event associations from a user;

a monitor profile output, communicatively coupled to the user input,

wherein the monitor profile output is to be used to configure on-circuit monitors, and

a monitor configuration generator, communicatively coupled to the monitor configuration file, the user input and the monitor profile output, for verifying that the selected set of monitor and event associations is a subset of the list of allowable associations and preparing, if the selected set of monitor and event associations is valid, the selected set of monitor and event associations for the monitor profile output.

11. A system for compiling an on-circuit monitor profile used to characterize the performance of a processing circuit, the system comprising:

means for storing a set of allowable associations of a plurality of monitors and a plurality of events;

means for displaying the set of allowable associations to a user, wherein the means for displaying is communicatively coupled to the monitor configuration file;

means for accepting user selection of a set of monitor and event associations, wherein the selected set of monitor and event associations is a subset of the set of allowable associations; and

means for outputting a monitor profile, the means for outputting being communicatively coupled to the user input, wherein the monitor profile is to be used to configure on-circuit monitors.

12. A computer readable medium including computer instructions for compiling an on-circuit monitor profile used to characterize the performance of a processing circuit, the computer instructions comprising instructions for:

storing a set of allowable associations of a plurality of monitors and a plurality of events;

presenting the set of allowable associations to a user;

accepting a user selected set of monitor and event associations, wherein the selected set of monitor and event associations is a subset of the set of allowable associations; and

preparing a monitor profile, wherein the monitor profile is to be used to configure on-circuit monitors.

13. A computer readable medium according to claim 12, wherein the instructions for presenting the set of allowable associations comprises instructions for presenting a graphical interface to the user.

14. A computer readable medium according to claim 12, wherein the instructions for accepting comprise instructions for accepting one or more inputs from the user through a graphical interface, wherein each accepted input selects a valid monitor-event combination.

15. A computer readable medium according to claim 12, wherein one or more of the monitors within the plurality of monitors is able to monitor only a subset of the plurality of events.

16. A computer readable medium including computer instructions for compiling an on-circuit monitor profile used to characterize the performance of a processing circuit, the computer instructions comprising instructions for:

storing a set of allowable associations between a plurality of monitors and a plurality of events;

accepting a user selected set of monitor and event associations;

verifying that the selected set of monitor and event associations is a subset of the list of allowable associations;

notifying the user if one or more monitor and event associations within the selected set of monitor and event associations is not valid; and

preparing, if the selected set of monitor and event associations is valid, a monitor profile based on the user selected set of monitor and event associations, wherein the monitor profile is to be used to configure on-circuit monitors.